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Sandbach Urban District Council



Report . . .

on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year Ended 31st
December, 1954

Medical Officer of Health . . .

L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector . . .

N. A. ROGERS, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sandbach Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1954, on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

Again there has been an increase in population. With a fall in the birth rate and the death rate remaining stationary this means that there has been some influx into the town, no doubt a reflection of our prosperity.

The number of new dwellings erected during the year was 28 by our Local Authority and 23 by Private Enterprise compared with 75 and 31 in 1953. This is a considerable fall and as there is still an active waiting list of some 200 families for Council Houses it would appear that we are falling behind in meeting the housing need.

There was a fairly substantial increase in the incidence of Measles and unfortunately medical science is not able as yet to do anything to limit its spread. However, medical treatment can and does very much limit the severity of this condition and serious sequelæ are now most uncommon.

Only one case of Whooping Cough was notified and here, fortunately, it is possible by immunisation to reduce the severity and possibly stamp out this dread disease. We doctors have been actively engaged now for the past two years in a campaign of immunisation against Whooping Cough which is linked in a combined injection with the attack on Diphtheria. It is probable that our efforts are beginning to show some results.

During the year a case of Diphtheria was notified in a child who had not been immunised. On investigation it was discovered that a fairly large number of children either had never been

immunised or had not received their reinforcing injections. As a result a campaign of protective injections was instituted which accounts for the very large increase of cases dealt with.

It cannot be emphasised either too strongly or too often that it is most important for all children to be immunised and reinforced regularly, otherwise there will be a return of Diphtheria in epidemic form with all that that means.

In May 1954, J. Harrison, Trainee in the Sanitary Inspector's Department, qualified as a Sanitary Inspector and was subsequently called up for Military Service. Because of the increased work in the department the Council decided to appoint an Additional Sanitary Inspector. These increases in duties have been brought about by recent legislation and much greater emphasis now being placed on environmental hygiene. I consider that the Council have acted with wisdom and foresight in increasing the establishment of the Health Department.

Once again I wish to tender my sincere thanks to Mr. Skeath, your Clerk, whose experience and counsel have afforded me much sound guidance in enabling me to carry out my duties. I am also much indebted to Mr. N. A. Rogers, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his help in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,
Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1953.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population.....9670 (9580)

Births

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births—			
Legitimate	117 (130)	53 (63)	64 (67)
Illegitimate	3 (3)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Still Births—			
Legitimate	3 (3)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1954—
12·4 (13·8).

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population—
15·2 (15·5).

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births—24·3 (22).

Still birth rate per 1000 total population—·31 (·31).

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population—
·36 (·35).

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3 (5)	1 (3)	2 (2)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births—25 (37·5).

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales—24 (26·8).

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births—25·6 (38·4).

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births—0 (0).

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	93 (91)	47 (47)	46 (44)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population—9·6 (9·4).

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population—
11·3 (11·4).

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year:

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	4	—
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	8	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	5	8
Coronary disease, angina	13	11	2
Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
Other heart diseases	5	4	1
Other circulatory disease	7	3	4
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Bronchitis	3	3	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	7	10
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	3	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total ...	93	47	46

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:

Puerperal Sepsis — (—)

Other Maternal causes..... 1 (—)

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births—8·1 (—).

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Once again it is satisfying to report a high level of attendance and activity at the Marriott House Clinic despite a year of inclement weather. The figures for the work done by the Eye Specialist and by the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist as shown in this report are only for children below age 5. Many cases of school children are dealt with and these are shown in the report to the Education Committee.

We are much hampered by the lack of proper accommodation and facilities and, as pointed out in last year's report, the need for new premises is urgent.

Statistics

	New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach Welfare Centre	98 (128)	— (2)	— (2)	1584 (1692)	450 (477)	346 (386)	52 (51)	1057 (729)	20·3 (14·3)
								No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic					New Cases 11 (13)	Total Attendances 67 (52)		34 (33)	1·9 (1·6)
E.N.T. Clinic					17 (8)	19 (8)		12 (6)	1·5 (1·3)

Midwifery

Midwifery in the town is carried out by the following Nurses:
Harper, D. Cranford, Bradwall Road, Sandbach Sandbach 273
(Full time)

Witter, J. 5 Elworth Street, Sandbach Sandbach 256
(In conjunction with Home Nursing duties)

Gerrard, E. E. 639 Crewe Road, Wheelock Sandbach 281
(In conjunction with Home Nursing duties)

As pointed out in a previous report, the present policy is for approximately 50% of confinements to take place in hospital and for an equal number at home. As can be seen from the figures only 33% of confinements occur at home.

Births

Hospital		Home		Private N. Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
78	3	37	—	—	—

If the home conditions are satisfactory and the case is normal there are many advantages in a mother having her baby in her own home. There does appear to be a tendency to accommodate more cases in hospital than are actually necessary. We have a good midwifery service in the town and not enough use is being made of it.

Vaccination and Immunisation

As pointed out in the introduction to this report, a single case of Diphtheria revealed a large number of children not protected by immunisation. Advantage was taken of the fear generated and all parents, through the schools and by the Health Visitors and Nurses, were offered immunisation. Special clinics were set up and a satisfactory response was obtained as is evidenced by the figures below.

The desire on the part of many mothers to have their children protected against Whooping Cough continues to grow and this injection is combined with the one for Diphtheria. Only one case of Whooping Cough was notified during the year and this satisfactory picture may well be due to immunisation. However, it remains to be seen in future years whether these good results are maintained.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	6	(22)
School children	53	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59	(26)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	332	(20)

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	3	(8)
School children	38	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	(9)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	93	(106)
School children	52	(9)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	145	(115)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	47	(58)
School children	5	(8)
Adults	1	(8)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	53	(74)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	1	(—)
School children	—	(2)
Adults	5	(21)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	(23)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

During the year there was a marked increase in the use of the Utilicon Ambulance for sitting cases. Difficulty was experienced at various times in finding a driver for the second ambulance and the Ambulance Committee decided to appoint a second full-time driver. This will ensure that a driver and attendant will always be available to man the ambulance going to an accident or a maternity case.

Ambulance Figures—1954

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
<i>Mileages</i>	557 (989)	793 (916)	786 (824)	922 (760)	609 (1054)	698 (993)	356 (1150)	595 (967)	743 (983)	677 (987)	523 (996)	553 (319)
<i>Patients</i>	32 (86)	41 (53)	38 (58)	61 (50)	40 (68)	44 (81)	26 (88)	40 (89)	41 (112)	48 (61)	38 (89)	42 (13)
<i>Journeys</i>	18 (33)	23 (26)	26 (31)	30 (26)	23 (37)	24 (38)	10 (36)	20 (32)	22 (32)	20 (31)	18 (36)	20 (12)

Utilicon Ambulance Figures—1954

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
<i>Mileages</i>	2303 (1256)	1717 (1255)	2731 (1398)	2562 (1560)	3005 (1438)	2291 (1292)	2388 (1795)	2063 (1828)	2607 (1436)	2835 (1351)	2342 (1374)	3136 (2251)
<i>Patients</i>	272 (107)	181 (101)	271 (98)	236 (105)	260 (102)	189 (82)	193 (149)	152 (158)	179 (117)	220 (135)	206 (151)	252 (229)
<i>Journeys</i>	71 (43)	56 (45)	78 (48)	82 (50)	93 (54)	72 (48)	69 (58)	62 (56)	79 (48)	85 (50)	64 (53)	97 (75)

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1954 are as follows:

Home Helps employed during 1954—

Full time	1	(2)
Temporary	2	(1)
Casual	6	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1954—

Full time	—	(1)
Temporary	2	(1)
Casual	2	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	(2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Applications received during 1954—

Confinement	7	(10)
Sickness	4	(2)
Tuberculosis	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	10	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21	(16)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Cases attended during 1954—

Confinement	3	(8)
Sickness	5	(4)
Tuberculosis	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	10	(5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18	(17)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, for the following information.

The quality of the treated water supplied to Sandbach Urban District has been generally satisfactory.

The raw water is polluted and contains iron. The iron content makes abstraction from the site at Arclid difficult due to choking of the slots in the 27 tube wells and the sand and gravel surrounding these wells.

The yield from the Arclid site is inadequate to meet the demands of domestic and industrial extension within the area. The reduced carrying capacity of the suction mains is intensifying this problem. Additional quantities of water are being supplied to the Sandbach area from other sources and considerable work has been carried out on the tube wells to increase their yield. The scraping of the suction mains is impossible at the moment due to the impossibility of shutting off the mains without causing a serious shortage of supplies. The quantity of water supplied to the Sandbach Urban District during 1954 was 136 million gallons of which 97 million gallons were for domestic use only.

Improvements have been effected to the pumping plant which has provided certain standby facilities.

The storage for the Sandbach Urban District is a 60,000-gallon capacity water tower, which in the event of a breakdown would last for approximately three hours.

The carrying capacity of the whole distribution system is greatly reduced by chemical deposits in the pipes (a legacy from the pre-war years).

The estimated population was 9300, giving an average daily consumption of 40·1 gallons per head for all purposes and 28·6 gallons per head for domestic use only.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

A considerable increase of Measles occurred during the year. This disease is extremely infectious in its early stages and little can be done to limit its spread.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954

	Age distribution											Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under													
	1-1	2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	10-10	15-15	20-20	35-35	45-45	65 & over			
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	4	11	14	17	18	79	6	2	1	—	—	152	2	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	6	2	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1954 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1945.

Notifications—1945 to 1954

	1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5					1		1													
5-15		2					2		1						1					
15-25			3	1	1	1	1								1				1	
25-35	1								1	1	1								1	
35-45	1						1						1							
45-55							2												1	
55-65			1							1	1					2				
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15		1					4			1										
15-25									2						1	1			1	1
25-35					2					1	1			1		1			1	
35-45		1								1						1				
45-55																				
55-65					1				1											
65 and over																				
TOTAL	2	4	4	1	4	2	4	7	4	1	4	2	3	—	3	2	4	—	5	1

Deaths—1945 to 1954

	1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over																				
<i>TOTAL</i>	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	1	-	2	-	1	-

As forecast in last year's report, the plan to offer vaccination against Tuberculosis to school children between ages 13 and 14 was put into effect. All parents were written to and the scheme and its advantages fully explained. I am pleased to report that

nearly 80% of parents agreed to have their children tested. The success of this response was in no small measure due to the active co-operation of the Head Teachers of schools concerned, namely the Secondary Modern, Wheelock Methodist and Sandbach Schools. We hope as the years progress to build up a population resistant to Tuberculosis.

Drainage and Sewerage

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Rees, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report.

The scheme for the closing of the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works and pumping the sewage to the Hind Heath Works was prepared in outline by the Consulting Engineers and approved in principle by the Council. Work is now proceeding on the detailed plans for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Housing

The number of new dwellings erected during the year was:

By the Local Authority	28
By Private Enterprise	23

.....

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the **Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.**

Sanitary Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits made during 1954	2966
Number of Informal Notices during 1954	27
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1954...	25
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/54 ...	9
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1954	5
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1954...	6
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/54 ...	1

It is felt that the time has arrived to deal more severely with property owners who do not respond readily to informal action. There are many good landlords whose co-operation is gained with-

out a great deal of trouble, but a minority of both owners and builders appear to be unimpressed by requests and appeals from Council officials. Much time and effort has been spent unnecessarily by your Sanitary Inspectors in this direction, and it is suggested that the legal responsibilities of this type of property owner might be brought home to him in the more direct manner provided for in law. It is true that a large number of houses in the District are let at low rentals, but it is also a fact that the landlords of many of these houses have received the rents for a very long period without spending anything on the reasonable maintenance of the properties.

Summary of Inspections and Visits by Sanitary Inspectors

Bakehouses	8
Butchers' Shops	22
Cinemas	1
Conservancy	40
Dairies	11
Deposits and Accumulations	12
Disinfections	17
Disinfestations	25
Drain Obstructions	80
Drain Tests	21
Drain Inspections	92
Dustbins	47
Factories	19
Fairgrounds	5
Fish Shops	3
Fish-frying Premises	21
Food Premises (not otherwise listed)	142
Hotels and Licensed Premises	12
Housing Defects	137
Housing Acts—Unfit houses	452
Ice-cream Premises	19
Infectious Disease	172
Keeping of Animals	14
Milk Retailing	30
Market Inspections	33
Offensive Trades	1
Overcrowding	16
Public Conveniences	27
Refuse Collection	116
Refuse Disposal	110
Rodent Control	173
Salvage	76

Sampling—Milk	12
Ice-cream	2
Other Foods	4
Water	6
Schools	7
Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection)	373
Slaughterhouses (Private)	9
Smoke Observations and Visits	37
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4
Unsound Food	83
Verminous and/or Dirty Premises	9
Water Supplies	5
Watercourses, Ditches and Ponds	19
Miscellaneous	164
Visits re Council House Applicants, Lodgers, etc.	378
	<hr/>
	2966
	<hr/>

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

The household refuse collection cycle averaged $8\frac{1}{2}$ days over the yearly period. With a full complement of men a seven-day cycle was invariably achieved, but shortage of labour from time to time together with absences due to sickness and holidays prevented a regular weekly collection. One pleasant feature in connection with the personnel employed in this service was that the sickness rate was low and there were no obvious cases of malingering.

The time is opportune to consider again whether it would not be an economical proposition to dispose of the older refuse collection vehicle and replace it with a new one. The lorry concerned is 10 years old and maintenance costs have become very heavy. Apart from the financial aspect, the service becomes disorganised when 50% of its transport is frequently laid up for repairs.

Refuse Disposal

All refuse has been tipped solely at the Malkins Bank Tip during the year. The tipping is not controlled in the technical sense, and with the amount of labour available it is only possible to make spasmodic attempts at levelling and tidying the site.

Conservancy

The Council have continued the weekly collection and emptying of pail closets by direct labour and the scheme operates satisfactorily. Thirty-one houses are thus served.

Salvage

The following amounts of Salvage were sold during 1954:

	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper—66 tons 3½ cwts.	428	3	11
Cardboard Boxes—7090	88	12	6

The price per ton for Baled Mixed Waste Paper rose by stages from £5 10s. to £7 during the 12 months, and this cautiously reflected the increased demand.

It appears likely that a net profit of over £200 will result from the sale of Salvage for the financial year 1954/5, and it is felt that this trading has established itself as a very useful auxilliary to the Refuse Collection Service.

Rodent Control

A specially trained Rat Catcher spends approximately three-quarters of his working time on these duties. Under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors the following treatments have been carried out during the year:

	Council Properties	Domestic Properties	Agricultural Properties	Business Properties
Number of Properties treated	10	49	9	11
Number of Treatments	19	50	29	43

Annual Contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 10 Commercial and 7 Agricultural properties. The total income from these Contracts is £107 and it is felt that the consistent treatment of susceptible sites, as applied under this scheme, is a most satisfactory way of keeping down the rat population.

Offensive Trades

There is only one business in the area—Bone Boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade.

In the warmer weather some control has been necessary to limit the spread of flies, but no other nuisance has been established in the year under review.

Moveable Dwellings

There is only one licensed Moveable Dwelling in the District. This is a properly constructed caravan, suitably sited and occupied by two female farm workers.

A licence was refused in respect of one other caravan, and the occupiers, who had only recent connections with Sandbach, were persuaded to "move on".

Schools

Following the conversion of trough closets to proper water closets at one of the Church Schools in the District (see 1953 Report), additional water closets were provided to comply with the requirements of a Statutory Notice served by the Council.

All schools in this District now have a reasonably good standard of sanitary accommodation.

Hotels and Licensed Premises

Statutory action was instituted in respect of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at one public-house, and the necessary improvements resulted.

Closet Conversions

One pail closet has been substituted for a privy during the year. Two waste-water closets were converted to proper water closets following the service of Statutory Notices and, in addition, the owners voluntarily abolished the septic tank and connected the drainage system to the public sewer.

Public Conveniences

The main Public Conveniences in the town centre continue to be well used and they meet a very real need on market days in particular. Instances of minor abuse of the premises occur from time to time, but the culprits are never discovered and such actions cannot be prevented where there is no regular attendant.

There is no knowledge of any desire or need for any additional Public Conveniences in the District.

Smoke Abatement

Previous Reports have remarked on the smoke problem in the main industrial area of the District, and particular reference was made in the 1953 Report to the steps being urged to secure smoke

elimination from a range of Salt Works chimneys. Definite progress is now being made in this direction and during 1954 the furnaces to four of the open salt-pans were fitted with mechanical under-feed stokers. It is hoped that further progress along these lines in the subsequent year will produce a very substantial improvement in the atmosphere of this area.

In the meantime several other industrial works need regular supervision in respect of excessive smoke emissions. The co-operation of managements has been gained on many occasions by interviews and informal action, but this method is not sufficiently lasting in its effect. Smoke is not an essential part of industrial production; in fact, it is an indication of waste through incomplete combustion. Bearing this in mind, the public have as much right to demand pure air as they have to expect pure food and water.

If the recent Beaver Report on Atmospheric Pollution results in revised legislation, the control of Local Authorities over this nuisance is likely to be substantially strengthened, but even adequate legislation is of no avail unless it is firmly applied.

Housing

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	410
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	25
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:	
(a) serving of notices for the execution of works	5
(b) making of Demolition or Closing Orders	6
Number of Notices served requiring the execution of works...	5
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	5
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	6
Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under Sect. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
Number of houses demolished	3

Preliminary information had already been obtained as a result of a superficial survey as to the number of houses which required further inspection to ascertain whether they were suitable for Clearance or Individual Demolition. (See 1953 Report.)

On August 30th, 1954, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into force, and by the end of the year a more detailed survey had been made with a view to providing the information required by the Minister under Section 1 of the Act. A Report was prepared by the Senior Sanitary Inspector for consideration by the Council early in 1955 indicating that there appeared to be 155 houses in the District which were unfit for human habitation within the meaning of the Act, and suitable for dealing with by way of Clearance or Demolition Orders.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for Certificates of Disrepair in connection with proposed rent increases.

Housing Improvement Grants

Although the Council had previously admitted the principle of making Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, they had rejected those individual applications which were made. However, during 1954 the Government eased some of the restrictions on the making of Improvement Grants and the Council were encouraged to adopt a more sympathetic attitude in this respect.

Six applications for Improvement Grants were received; four were approved for Grant Aid and two were rejected on the grounds that the work had already been carried out.

In this connection it may be realised that these figures in no way represent the large number of enquiries and tentative applications made to the Public Health officials. In many of these cases an investigation of the property concerned together with an explanation of the scheme to the applicant, reveals obstacles which he is not willing to surmount in order to qualify for Grant Aid.

Rehousing

In December, 1954, there were 234 "live" applicants on the Council's Waiting List for rehousing: this was a reduction of 18 on the figures quoted 12 months previously. A comparison of statistics also reveals that, whereas in December, 1953, only 52 applicants had been on the Waiting List for longer than 12 months, at the end of 1954 the number of applicants in this category was 126. This would appear to indicate that the satisfactory position which the rehousing scheme was approaching 12 months ago has receded on account of the reduction and slowing up of the house building programme.

Statement of Position at 1st December, 1954

Total number of Applicants on Waiting List	234
Applicants who have been on the Register for less than one year	108
Applicants who have been on the Register for between one and two years	106
Applicants who have been on the Register for between two and three years	20

The applications may be analysed as follows:

Living outside the Urban District but working within	49
Neither living nor working in the Urban District	31
Married during the last 12 months and living in lodgings in the Urban District	14
Married more than 12 months ago and living in lodgings in the Urban District	51
Sandbach tenants of low standard houses	25
Sandbach tenants overcrowded	22
Sandbach tenants in reasonable houses and not falling into any other category	26
Sandbach tenants of tied houses	4
Recently moved to Sandbach and now in lodgings	7
Applications based on medical grounds	3
Applicants not yet married	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

Up to June 30th, 1954, the slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane, Sandbach, was under the control of the Ministry of Food and dealt with the whole of the meat supplied to the Urban Districts of Sandbach, Middlewich and Alsager. Upon the relinquishment of control by the Ministry, the Sandbach Urban District Council decided, with the acquiescence of the local butchers, to acquire the lease of the premises and operate them as a Public Slaughterhouse. No licences have been issued in respect of Private Slaughterhouses in the District.

Decontrol and free marketing immediately resulted in a very much better class of meat being provided for this area.

The following tabulated information as to meat inspected and condemned during the year is separated so that a comparison may be drawn between the period of control and decontrol.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned 1st January to 30th June, 1954

				Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	...	...	...	181	370	98	2050	829	3528
Number inspected	...	...	...	181	370	98	2050	829	3528

All diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcases condemned	...	—	7	3	19	8	37
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	37	194	—	415	143	789
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	...	20.4	54.3	3.1	21.2	18.2	23.4

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcases condemned	...	2	8	—	—	6	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	30	157	—	—	67	254
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	17.7	44.6	—	—	8.8	7.6

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

1st July to 31st December, 1954

				Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	...	...	...	403	49	26	1850	1304	3528
Number inspected	...	...	...	403	49	26	1850	1304	3528

All diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcases condemned	...	—	1	1	1	5	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	81	8	—	110	12	211
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	...	21.0	18.4	3.8	6.0	1.3	6.0

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcases condemned	...	3	—	—	—	3	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	49	16	—	—	35	100
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	12.9	32.6	—	—	2.8	2.9

From the above figures it will be seen that the incidence of Tuberculosis was substantially reduced in the second half of the year, and the weight of meat condemned was very much less proportionately during this period.

It is also interesting to observe the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last three years:

	1952	1953	1954
Average amount condemned per beast slaughtered—All diseases	39 lb.	32 lb.	23 lb.
Average amount condemned per beast slaughtered—Tuberculosis only ...	26 lb.	22 lb.	15 lb.

Twelve cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year.

Other Foods

Regular visits are paid to premises where food is prepared or sold, and numerous minor improvements have been carried out at the premises during the past year as a result of pressure and encouragement by the Sanitary Inspectors.

No instances have come to official notice of the sale of any unsound food.

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at retail stores:

88 tins Meat	87 pkts. Cheese
69 tins Fruit	4 pkts. Oats
25 tins Milk	1 jar Meat Paste
131 tins Vegetables	15 lb. Sausages
5 tins Soup	19 lb. Bacon
2 tins Fish	184 lb. Wet Fish
2 tins Cream	15 lb. Boiled Ham
111 lb. Cheese	4 lb. Barley

Milk

The position in December, 1954, with regard to Licensing and Registration was as follows:

Registered Dairies	3
Registered Distributors	9
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	3
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	6
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	6
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	6
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk	6

Apart from routine inspections of the dairies, the milk purveyors' vehicles are periodically inspected at the roadside to ensure their compliance with the Milk Regulations.

Twelve samples of Milk—eight Pasteurised, one Sterilised, and two Ungraded—were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory reports were given on 10 of the samples. The two unsatisfactory samples, both ungraded, were supplied from premises outside the Urban District, and further investigations were being pursued at the end of the year.

Ice-Cream

Thirty-four premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice-cream. Only two of these cases are registered for the manufacture of this product, but, in fact, no ice-cream has been made on the premises during 1954.

Two samples of Ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and both were given satisfactory reports.

Three samples of Iced Lollies were also examined bacteriologically and found to be free from contamination.

Other Registered Premises

Seventeen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation of cooked meat, sausages, etc., and 12 premises are registered for fish-frying.

Factories

Routine inspections of factories are made from time to time and the following table indicates the position for 1954:

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority...	32	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority...	51	12	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	—	—	—
	95	19	—	—

